

Volume 25, No. 4, April 1993

CAROLINA COUNTRY



Jobs and Economic Development

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When Your Light "Blink"

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Federal Subsidies and
Electric Utilities

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by Miller

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Official Publication
Carolina Electric Cooperatives

Carolina Electric Cooperatives is the network of electric cooperative organizations that provides reliable, safe and affordable electric service to 600,000 homes, farms and businesses in North Carolina. At the heart of Carolina Electric Cooperatives are the state's 28 Electric Membership Corporations, each member-owned, not-for-profit and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership.

Executive Vice President

Wayne D. Keller

Manager, Corporate Communications

Jay Johnson

Editor

Owen Bishop

Associate Editor

Michael E.C. Gery

Business/Advertising Coordinator

Monica Russell

Graphics Assistants

Sandra Ward

Kim Annmons



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CAROLINA COUNTRY

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Electric cooperatives are prepared to help President Clinton and Congress reduce government debt and stimulate economic growth, says J. Ronald McElheney, president of North Carolina's association of electric co-ops.

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North Carolina's electric cooperatives have been stimulating the regional economy for many years. Here is a summary of what they have done recently.



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Find out why your digital display clocks sometimes blink on and off and what the co-ops are doing about it.

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On the Cover

The Joel Lane House (Raleigh), a watercolor by Raleigh artist Jerry Miller. The house is on the National Register of Historic Places and was the home of Colonel Joel Lane, a North Carolina patriot in the Revolutionary era, who deeded the land where the Raleigh capitol was built. Restored to its 1790s style, the house is open for tours. Contact Capital Area Visitors Center, 301 N. Blount St., Raleigh, N.C. Phone: (919) 733-3456.



We power growth, provide jobs

Co-ops to Clinton: We'll do our part

By J. Ronald McElheney

North Carolina's electric co-ops support President Clinton's goals for stimulating the nation's economy and reducing the deficit, and we stand ready to do our part.

We are responsible for powering the growth of agribusiness in the state to a \$30 billion-a-year industry—the state's largest. We did this by bringing electricity and related services to rural areas of the state when no one else would.

Now we are responsible for maintaining and improving a modern, sophisticated and growing system that provides electric service to 1.6 million people in 95 of the state's 100 counties.

This job will never be finished. We will continue working to bring new, good-paying jobs to rural areas of the state. And we will continue supporting efforts to improve education, housing and health care.

Every electric utility in the country receives a federal subsidy, with the rural electric co-ops receiving the least.

Favorable tax laws for investor-

owned utilities amount to a subsidy of \$62 per customer; tax-free financing for municipal systems amounts to a subsidy of \$93 per customer.

Electric co-ops receive a subsidy in the form of reduced-interest loans from the Rural Electrification Administration. This amounts to \$46 per consumer. (See related story, page 12)



J. Ronald McElheney

Co-op leaders from across the nation will work with President Clinton and Congress to make sure the administration's recommendations don't weaken the co-op program—one of this country's greatest examples of economic success.

Electric cooperatives are a model of public-private partnership.

The REA, working with North Carolina's 28 independent, not-for-profit Electric Membership Corpora-

tions have brought jobs, growth and prosperity to the state. That's a profitable investment in the well-being of our communities and our people.

North Carolina and the nation need a strong electric cooperative program. That's why leaders of Tar Heel co-ops will join their counterparts from across the nation to work with President Clinton and Congress to make sure the administration's recommendations don't weaken one of this country's greatest examples of economic success.

Each of our 600,000 consumer-members owns a piece of a local EMC. Our organization and our member-owners stand ready to join President Clinton in improving the nation's economy and reducing the deficit.

We ask only that the responsibility for further deficit reduction reflect fairness and an even hand. ▲

J. Ronald McElheney;

executive vice president and general manager of Jones-Onslow EMC, Jacksonville, is immediate past president of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives.

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How electric cooperatives promote economic development

Investing in rural growth

By Michael E.C. Gery
Associate Editor

North Carolina's electric cooperatives know their communities very well. That's why helping new and existing businesses comes naturally to them,



"Bud" Cohoon

says William "Bud" Cohoon, director of community and economic development for Carolina Electric Cooperatives.

He describes the co-ops' role in boosting economic development across North Carolina as "proactive."

"As membership organizations, we can more easily negotiate and establish an electric rate for a commercial or industrial operation, based on their needs," he says. "Our flexibility in working with these accounts gives us an edge over our competitors. And we can respond quickly. This means we can often give these customers attractive rates that will give them an edge on their competitors."

Cohoon says these efforts produce revenue for the co-ops while also improving the local economy.

"The revenue is important to the

co-ops, but because we are not-for-profit we're just as interested in helping the consumer-members' communities prosper," he says. "That's been a priority in this program for more than half a century."

The 28 Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs) across the state began working individually to improve the economy almost as soon as their first lines were energized. Since 1982, these local efforts have been augmented by a statewide initiative directed by Cohoon and his colleagues from the co-ops' state office in Raleigh.

For example, if you have a business that needs help with expansion, the local EMC can apply for up to \$400,000 in zero-interest financing from the federal Rural Electrification Administration.

If you need a 146,000-square-foot factory building on 33 acres in eastern North Carolina, the nearest EMC will be glad to give you details about one. The building is in Robersonville and is served by Edge-

combe-Martin County EMC, Tarboro. Hallmark Cards recently closed its operation in this facility, and its availability is being widely advertised.

Another project has Carolina Electric Cooperatives' economic development specialist Eddie Durham working with Albemarle EMC, Hertford, and the South Mills Water Association in Camden County to prepare the water system for an expanding housing market.

In Bladen County, Jimmy Smith, manager of economic development/governmental relations at Four County EMC, Burgaw, worked to attract a major food processor, a cold



James Hale sets bearings for Evans Trucking. See story on page 5. (Michael Gery photo)



Davidson EMC helped Volvo-GM's truck factory in Guilford County acquire a \$500,000 generator.

storage facility and a United Parcel Service facility, which together employ some 700 people.

Brunswick EMC, Shallotte, has helped leaders in the Southport-Oak Island district and the south Brunswick County area obtain sites for new light industry. Brunswick's Bobby Davis says the co-op has an advantage in business development because it is in a position to encourage balanced growth encompassing tourism and resort assets as well as commercial and industrial ventures.

Here's an overview of how the co-ops are working on various fronts to foster economic development:

The REA

REA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has

offered direct financial assistance of this kind since 1987, when the agency was authorized to issue loans expressly for rural economic development.

Since then, Carolina Electric Cooperatives' member co-ops have applied for and received eight zero-interest loans from REA. As "an investment in rural growth," the program pays handsomely in jobs and a stimulated economy.

This year the REA loan ceiling was raised to

\$400,000 from its previous limit of \$100,000. These "cushion of credit" loans go to qualifying electric co-ops on behalf of local businesses that meet established standards.

"The REA loan program has a dramatic impact," says Cohoon. "Any local developer served by an EMC can see it as a potential source of financing."

These are the North Carolina projects that have qualified for this REA program through Carolina Electric Cooperatives:

- Albemarle EMC, Hertford, helped Watermark Association of Artisans, Inc., move into a new building and set up computers and a training system for its crafts production.

- Davidson EMC, Lexington, and the Rockingham County Economic

Development office helped C & N Trucking of Stoneville build an assembly plant for a promising truck loading system (see page 8).

- Brunswick EMC, Shallotte, received the state's first REA "cushion of credit" loan to build a 24,000-square-foot "incubator" for small businesses in Columbus County. The facility now has a total of six tenants.

- Lumbee River EMC, Red Springs, used these loans to help add a product assembly line at Hoke Rubber Products in Rockfish, build a model turkey growing facility in St. Pauls and buy a crane for Sterling Mobile Homes in Robeson County.

- Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir, helped to organize a business incubator center in Watauga County and assisted with the construction of a manufacturing facility for Home Storage, Inc., in Ashe County.

Grassroots planning

Local electric co-ops can bring state and national planners together with community people to produce a workable plan for fast-track growth, Cohoon says.

It is a system that already has succeeded, tapping the skills of planners from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and other key organizations.

The process, which is organized locally, involves about a week and perhaps 300 interviews before a formal plan can be published and launched.

Energy to get things done

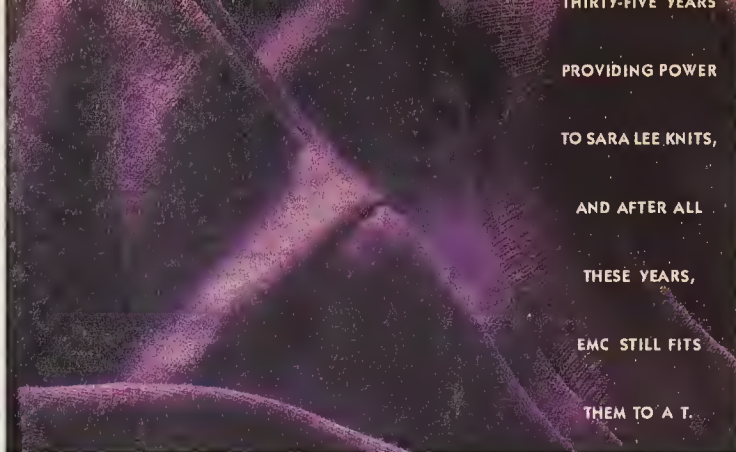
The state office of Carolina Electric Cooperatives maintains a database detailing energy use patterns of co-op consumer-members throughout

continued on page 8

continued from page 7

the state. Information on the power requirements of sawmills, for example, helped the EMCs design programs that can assist that industry. The same information can be used to attract suppliers or customers for related businesses.

The state office's Marketing Department also tracks development through Dodge Reports, a service providing regular updates on building projects. Recent reports, for example, included details about an 11-unit Coast Guard family housing project on Ocracoke Island and a 12-bed nursing home in Buncombe County. Both could have implications for the co-ops serving those areas.



Blue Ridge EMC has powered Sara Lee Knits for 35 years.

Cohoon says the state office mounts national and international advertising campaigns to promote co-op-served businesses and woo new businesses into EMC territories.

"Prime Power"

"Prime Power" is a market development service of Carolina Electric Cooperatives offering various pro-

grams through its state office, including:

- Identifying potential customers and suppliers throughout the country using the Standard Industrial Classification Code.
- Coordinating comprehensive energy management surveys of commercial or

industrial enterprises as a means of achieving energy savings, at no cost to co-op member-consumers. This worked recently at facilities for Volvo-White's heavy truck manufacturing center in Guilford County (Davidson EMC, Lexington). Wake County public radio station WCPE (Wake EMC, Wake Forest), Pine Forest High School in Fayetteville

Co-op helps inventor put "good idea" to work

Clarence Evans came up with a proverbial "good idea." Now, thanks to help from his local electric cooperative, he has a \$350,000 plant where he puts that idea to work.

Davidson Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Lexington, had faith in the idea and in Evans' business, C. & N. Evans Trucking. The co-op even applied to the Rural Electrification Administration for a special \$100,000 loan on behalf of the trucking company.

The loan came through in 1992, and Clarence Evans was on his way.

When the idea came to him, Evans and his wife, Nancy, already had a trucking business in the Stoneville community of Rockingham County. His trucks hauled beverage cans for soda makers and breweries. Each truck was loaded and unloaded using the standard conveyor-type rollers that are built into the trailer floor.

A trucker would deliver a load and then drive home with an empty 53-foot trailer.

Clarence Evans repeatedly asked himself, "How can I arrange for that trailer to haul something on the return trip?"

He would lie awake nights and think: "How can I pack more pallets into a trailer?"

Then he would wonder, "How can I load those pallets so they slide easily in and out of the trailer?"

The idea eventually came to him. After experimenting with a design, he converted a few trailers.

He figured the pallets could ride on ball bearings, as if they were on a modified Chinese checkers board. The bearings would sit on a tough air tube that could hold a heavy load, like a bicycle tire tube. That way, the tube could be deflated so the roller balls would

retract into the trailer bed and the load would rest flat on the floor. When it came time to unload the pallets, he could inflate the air tube, making the ball bearings rise under the load, and the pallets could be rolled out. Then he imagined a "turntable" built into the rear of a trailer bed to allow the load to be moved sideways, "pinwheeled" as it's called in the trade. That simple idea, transformed into a mechanical system, now allows a typical trailer to carry 25 pallets instead of 22 pallets.

That means an Evans truck can haul 203,975 standard 12-ounce cans instead of 179,498—a whopping increase of 24,477.

As Clarence Evans says, "That's a lot of cans in one trip."

It's called the "Duck-'N-System," which refers to Evans' nickname, "Duck," and to the movement of 1,058 ball bearings in a trailer

(South River EMC, Dunn), and a ski resort in Haywood County (Haywood EMC, Waynesville).

- Guiding new or expanding operations through environmental and other regulatory agencies.

- Listing products, services or inquiries worldwide through the Research Triangle-based World Trade Center Network.

- Finding appropriate financing for starting or expanding a business.

A success story

As Charles DuBose planned his new manufacturing plant in Clinton last year, he had a choice of electric utilities: Carolina Power and Light or South River EMC, Dunn.

His DuBose Strapping makes

metal strapping that's used to bind loads of lumber. The manufacturing process requires power-intensive equipment to clean, cut, paint and bake the metal straps.

CP&L offered its established discount rate for large industrial customers. South River EMC could not offer such a rate but the co-op's marketing staff didn't throw in the towel. Instead, the co-op and its rate consultant, Curran & Associates, went to work.

Studying five years of peak power demand cycles, South River opened a "window" of time when DuBose Strapping could operate two 8-hour work shifts completely off the co-op's peak demand periods. By operating during off-peak periods, when overall

demand for electricity is lower, DuBose could take advantage of South River's lower off-peak rates.

Charles DuBose chose South River EMC.

He said, "South River got us what we needed—the two shifts and the lower rate."

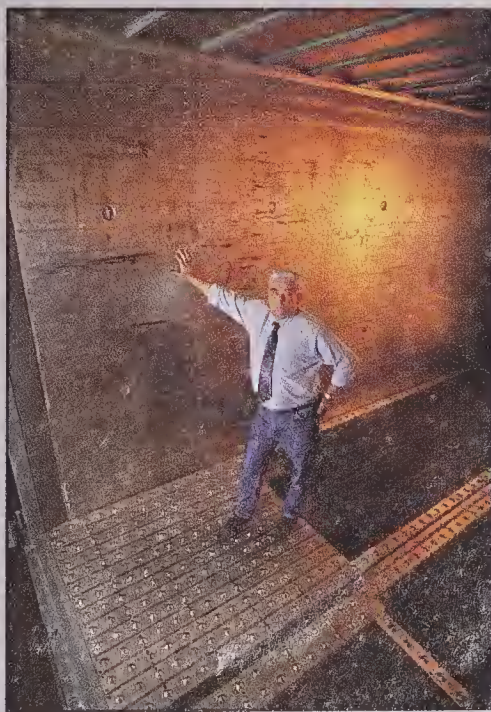
To take advantage of off-peak rates, DuBose operates variable hours both during the work week and over the course of a year. As business improves, DuBose says, he may work with South River to run a third shift on weekends.

"It's a true win-win situation, good for them and good for the co-op," says Marvin O. Marshall, the EMC's executive vice president and general manager. ▲

bed. The bearings "duck" into the floor. Just deflate the tube by opening a valve, and all the bearings sink into the floor, providing a flat surface so the load can ride safely. Once the truck reaches its destination, the driver flips one switch, the roller balls rise and lift the load, making those pallets easy to roll out.

Evans says the roller ball bed is a safer way to transport a commodity like glass bottles or cans. Pallets packed tightly into a trailer leave no space for products to fall out, no matter how many miles they travel.

Evans also has perfected a system for quick loading and unloading. When a truck is unloaded, a forklift at the rear of the trailer pulls off a pallet, and the remainder of the load is pushed to the edge by a moving chain that runs between the ball bearings. The chain can move 60,000 pounds across the roller balls. Loading is done by operating the chain in reverse.



Clarence Evans designed a better way to load tractor trailers.

At present the Evans operation in Stoneville can convert a trailer in about a week. Clarence Evans says his system costs about half what it once cost to install a traditional hydraulic conveyor bed system on a trailer truck of this kind.

"And this can be used for any type

of freight," Evans says. "Anyone who uses a pallet can use this—the furniture industry, anybody."

When Mark Shults, Davidson EMC's marketing manager, first learned of Evans' plans, he realized that the new building was in an area where the electric service could be provided by either Davidson EMC or Duke Power Company.

Davidson EMC Manager H. Wayne Wilkins says: "We have a line there and were in a position to try to work out something with the Evanses. They are longtime members, good members, and were starting a new business venture."

Clarence Evans preferred connecting with his local electric cooperative. His family has worked in the area for many years.

"I plowed this land with a mule not too long ago," he says.

He is grateful to Davidson EMC for going the extra mile to help obtain the REA loan. ▲

New technology can control pauses in power

What are those “blinks?”

By Kim Whorton
Staff Writer

Picture yourself driving home on a Friday evening through a serious thunderstorm.

Along the way, you're looking forward to a quiet evening at home, relaxing in front of the TV to watch the program your VCR taped that afternoon.

When you arrive home, your VCR is flashing “12:00,” “12:00,” “12:00.” You know immediately that your plans for the evening just changed. A power failure had turned the VCR off and when it restarted, it had lost any memory of your taping instructions.

Your home electric service had “blinked,” as they say. It was only a momentary pause in the flow of power, but that was enough to set the VCR flashing.

When you're greeted by those flashing digits, you probably wouldn't call to thank your electric cooperative. But maybe you should.

The blink is a temporary interruption of electric service. A blink actually protects against power surges that could damage your electrical appliances, not to mention the entire electrical system.



A lightning arrester (extending below the crossbar) will ground an electrical surge from a lightning bolt that could strike this Haywood County hillside.

A blink occurs when something falls on a power line, or a bolt of lightning sends a surge through the line, activating a protective device called a recloser.

Reclosers, which are found in power substations and inside metal housings that are attached to utility poles, contain electrical contacts that automatically open and close to

correct the fault or power surge.

A recloser will operate up to three times, turning your electricity on and off, in an attempt to correct the problem with the line. If it must operate a fourth time, the flow of electricity is permanently shut down to avoid damaging the lines and substation equipment.

Another device that can cause blinks is a lightning arrester. Arresters work like lightning rods to attract surges of electricity from an electrical storm and quickly send them to ground. This often prevents lightning's high-voltage energy from damaging electrical equipment.

Both reclosers and arresters can be activated by random faults, such as a squirrel touching a live wire, a lizard crawling on an arrester or a tree limb falling on a line.

These mechanisms can be activated at any time but utilities can take steps to reduce the blinks.

North Carolina's 28 electric cooperatives are constantly studying new methods and technology in this area to improve customer service and reliability—and to reduce the inconvenience of the blinks without jeopardizing the safety of the system.

For example, Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), based in Hillsborough, has reported success with a new test meter for lightning arresters.

David Obenshain, manager of engineering for the EMC, described the situation his 20,000-member co-op faced:

“Many years ago, when a consumer's electricity went out, that person just dropped a postcard in the mail that said, ‘My lights are out,’ and someone from the co-op would go out and repair it as soon as possi-

ble. Now, it's not enough to have good voltage and reliable service. Nobody wants blinks, because so many people have things like home computers and VCRs that can get thrown off."

Obenshain admitted the co-op's reclosers are operating more than he would like, causing 20 to 40 blinks per year for some.

"If you've got a bad arrester, then the recloser behind it has to open, and you get blinks all down the line," he said.

To attack the blinks, Piedmont EMC has exchanged old lightning arresters for new MOV (metal oxide varistor) arresters, and installed wildlife guards on transformers near the top of a pole.

And with a new piece of equipment, the co-ops can test lightning arresters to make sure they're working properly. The Hi-Test Surger Arrester Tester is the first low-cost instrument available for testing arresters on power distribution lines. It can also test insulators, transformer bushings and fuses.

Since squirrels cause a significant number of blinks for Piedmont EMC, wildlife guards—also known as squirrel guards—are being installed around transformers. The guard covers the line to keep the squirrels

from making contact with it. This protects the animals from electrocution and also reduces blinks they might otherwise cause.

Co-ops can test lightning arresters to make sure they're working properly.

All of North Carolina's electric co-ops are concerned about blinks, and the solutions they use are as diverse as the EMCs themselves and the terrain they serve.

To fulfill national safety requirements, the co-ops are required to have on-going pole and line inspection programs and right-of-way programs.

Cape Hatteras EMC, Buxton, like most co-ops, takes measures to keep the right-of-way clear so workmen can do a better job of visually inspecting insulators. Insulators support electric wires and prevent undesired flow of electricity.

Ben Gallop, manager of engineering and operations at Lumbee River EMC, Red Springs, reported that the co-op is now using a computerized recorder that is sensitive enough to pick up even the slightest glitch.

"By using this device, we can

quickly find out whether the blink was caused by a real problem with the system, or by a stray squirrel or tree limb," Gallop said.

At Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir, operations manager Bob Moretz said crews in each of the EMC's service districts specialize in finding problems that cause blinks and correcting them as quickly as possible.

"We keep the right-of-way clear to avoid any blinks that could be caused by tree limbs falling on the lines," said Moretz. "More than anything else, procedures like maintaining a clear right-of-way, replacing faulty materials and inspecting poles regularly help to keep the blinks down."

"But I'm convinced the best thing we can do is to keep the lines of communication open with our members, and respond quickly whenever we have a complaint." ▲

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These models are free, so we suggest you write for yours now. Again, we repeat, there is no cost, and certainly no obligation. All hearing problems are not alike and some cannot be helped by a hearing aid but many can. So, send for your free model now. Thousands have already been mailed, so be sure to send your name, address and phone number today to Dept. 24414, Beltone Electronics, 4701 West Victoria Street, Chicago, Illinois 60646.

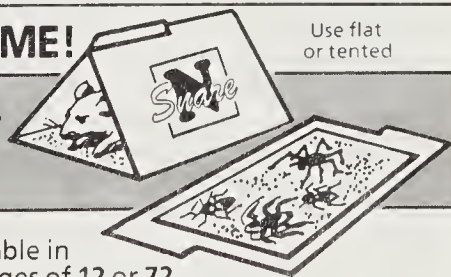
In California, your local authorized Beltone dispenser may call.

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**President's plan
would raise interest
rates on REA loans.**

Co-ops call for fairness in subsidy debate

President Clinton had bad news for rural electric cooperatives during his State of the Union address: The interest rate they pay for government loans will probably go up.

The co-ops, in response, said they would "do our part" to help pare the nation's deficit, but called on the president to treat each segment of the utility industry equally.

During the new president's historic speech, he recommended reducing the government subsidy for rural utilities that borrow low-interest

money from the federal Rural Electrification Administration (REA). The government, which currently pays 7.3 percent in interest for long-term money it borrows, makes 5 percent loans to rural electric cooperatives.

Clinton, whose native Arkansas is home to 17 rural electric cooperatives, admitted the cut is "a difficult thing for me to recommend," but explained, "I think that I cannot exempt the things that exist in my state or in my experience if I ask you to deal with things that are difficult for you to deal with."

The administration expects the move to save \$374 million over four years.

Publication focuses on coastal Native Americans

Although scientists believe that Native Americans have lived on North Carolina's shores since 12,000 B.C., very little is known about their lifestyles and beliefs during the prehistory period.

"North Carolina's First Inhabitants," an easy-to-understand 20-page publication, explores what is known about coastal North Carolina's three language-speaking Indian groups—the Algonkians, the Iroquoians and the Siouans.

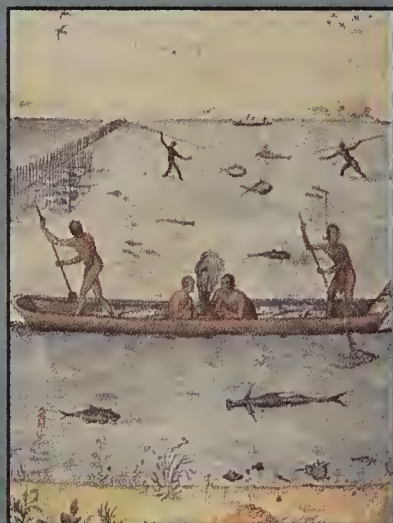
The publication explains how state and university archaeologists are using archaeological artifacts to get a clearer picture of the Indians' existence prior to European contact. Nearly all of the state's coastal Indians died from diseases introduced by the Europeans before their history could be thoroughly recorded.

The booklet describes the efforts of present-day Waccamaw-Siouan Indians in Columbus and Bladen counties to reclaim their heritage.

The publication also provides a hands-on activity that parents or teachers can use to teach children how scientists conduct archaeological digs.

The booklet was written by the staff of University of North Carolina Sea Grant, who produce "Coastwatch," a magazine about the coast and Sea Grant programs.

To receive a copy, write to UNC Sea Grant, Box 8605, N.C. State University, Raleigh, N.C. 27695. Ask for UNC-SG-92-13. The cost is \$2.50. Make checks payable to UNC Sea Grant. Phone: (919) 515-2454.



*From a 1580s watercolor
by "Lost Colony" governor
John White.*

The president did not say if he would also slash government subsidies for the rest of the electric industry, which includes investor-owned power companies and municipal utilities.

Tax laws have allowed those investor-owned companies to use some of the federal taxes they collect from customers as a sort of 30-year, interest-free loan. In 1990, there was \$61 billion in that pool. With interest, the value of that pool was \$5.1 million, or \$61.89 for each customer.

Meanwhile, tax breaks provide a subsidy for municipal systems. These utilities pay their way by selling securities, and the buyers are not required to pay taxes on the interest they earn from them. If they were, the government would have reaped \$858 billion in 1990, or \$93.37 for each municipal customer.

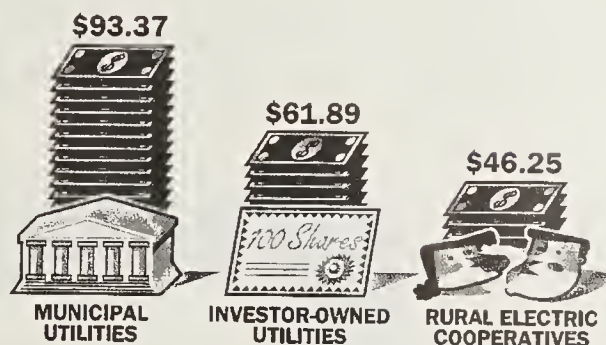
By contrast, electric co-ops get a break on their interest rate, to the tune of \$542 million in 1990. That amount averaged \$46.25 for each co-op member.

Bob Bergland, head of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), says rural Americans "stand ready to do our part," even though they "have already made many sacrifices."

Rural Americans, he says, "ask now only that the responsibility for

Federal Subsidies Per Consumer (in 1990)

All utilities get federal subsidies. Rural electric cooperatives receive a smaller subsidy than any other segment of the electric utility industry: (Rural Electric News Service)



model for economic renewal in the countryside."

Bergland counterparts across the country agreed.

"The REA program has been a multi-billion dollar stimulus to the U.S. economy," says Raymond G. Kuhl, general manager of Michigan Electric Cooperative Association. He pledged to work with the president "to make positive changes—changes that will be fair and not counter-productive to rural America."

—Rural Electric News Service

New book lists battle's roster of Loyalists

Moores Creek National Battlefield has published a book listing the Roster of Loyalists in the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge.

The book reports on more than 250 Loyalists in the battle that was fought Feb. 27, 1776.

Copies of the book are available at Moores Creek National Battlefield, which is 20 miles northwest of Wilmington on Highway 210 near Currie.

further deficit reduction reflect fairness and an even hand."

Bergland says the co-ops support Clinton's "goals to stimulate the nation's economy," offering "a strong REA" as "a proven

"Goodness Grows" marketing efforts recognized

Two North Carolina companies and a Winston-Salem sales representative were recognized recently for their contributions to the "Goodness Grows in North Carolina" program.



Home Industries of Hillsborough, owned by Cheng and Wend Ng, won the Member of the Year award. Manufacturers of Zing Sauce, Home Industries has been working with the N.C. Department of Agriculture's "Goodness Grows" program since 1987.

Flowers Baking of Jamestown won the Commissioner's Award for its contributions to the marketing program.

Jim Frank, sales manager for the T.W. Garner Food Co. in Winston-Salem was honored as the first inductee into the "Goodness Grows" Hall of Fame. Frank has been involved with the program since its inception in 1986.

To order by mail, send \$22.20 per copy and make checks payable to Eastern National Park and Monument Association. Mail to: Moores Creek National Battlefield, P.O. Box 69, Currie, N.C. 28435.

For more information, call (919) 283-5591.

You can plant a symbol of our nation's heritage

Want to plant a tree that has important ties to our nation's heritage?

You can do so by ordering seedlings from Famous & Historic Trees, a project of American Forests, the country's oldest non-profit citizen conservation group. The organization seeks to improve the environment by planting and caring for trees and forests, and by educating citizens about trees.

With the help of Global ReLeaf volunteers and supporters, Famous & Historic Trees seeks to preserve historic sites such as Walden Woods, battlefields of the Civil War and George Washington's home, Mount Vernon. Through American Forests, trees associated with these and hundreds of other historic sites have been made available to the public.

Started by recording artist Don Henley, The Walden Woods Project is raising funds to preserve the land where Henry David Thoreau found inspiration for his writing. Currently there are four trees available from Walden Woods: red maple, river birch, Tatarian honeysuckle and the weeping willow.

Meanwhile, the non-profit Civil War Trust was founded in 1991 with the goal of preserving the thousands of acres of Civil War battlefields that are under threat of commercial development. Famous & Historic Trees has made available trees from such sites as Gettysburg, Andersonville, Manassas and Antietam.

In addition, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association wants to restore George Washington's fruit garden and vineyard at Mount Vernon. Famous

& Historic Trees hopes to defray the \$500,000 cost through the sale of trees grown from seed of trees at Mount Vernon. Varieties offered include Mount Vernon red maple and the Mount Vernon American holly.

Each tree is a direct offspring of the original and comes ready to plant with a complete growing kit, a personalized Certificate of Authenticity

and a replacement guarantee good for one year. Over 150 trees in 10 categories are available in the Spring 1993 Tree Selection Catalog. Prices range from \$35 to \$75, plus \$7 per tree for shipping.

For a catalog, call (800) 677-0727. For information, write to Famous & Historic Trees, 8555 Plummer Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32219. ▲

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Published by Mount Olive College Press. (\$10.00 copy + \$2.00 S&H). Limited edition. Advance ordered copies will be autographed by the author. Available May 1st: LOVELY DAY CARDS & BOOKS, 618 Ann Street, Beaufort, NC 28516.



By Carol Bessent Hayman



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Device allows parents to control kids' TV time

A new electronic "watchdog," now available from the North Carolina Public Television Foundation, allows parents to control how much time their children spend watching television.

Bill Stewart of Raleigh, who helped develop the device, said he felt frustrated in trying to tear his kids away from the television.

With TimeSlot, the consumer can program the number of hours the TV set will operate on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. The set is turned on when a special "credit card" is inserted in a groove in the TimeSlot mechanism. When the allotted time expires, the set automatically shuts off.

The device connects between the TV set and its power source. Each unit has three programmable "credit cards" and one master card for parents. The master card allows parents to program operating hours and to initiate automatic shut-off at specific times.

Only the master card and two buttons are used to set the equipment.

Stewart and his partners have found that children in families that use TimeSlot spend less time watching television and learn to budget their TV time. Siblings also develop negotiating skills, they said, by finding ways to share and stretch their budgeted hours.

TimeSlot is available from the North Carolina Public Television Foundation for \$129.95 plus tax, shipping and handling. Proceeds will benefit public television in North Carolina.

For more information about TimeSlot, contact Aleisa Jones at the North Carolina Public Television Foundation, P.O. Box 12231, Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27709-2231. Phone: (919) 549-7132.

—Kim Whorton



The TimeSlot cards and programmer can help control TV watching time.

"I'd actually take the television out of the living room," he said. "But by nine o'clock, when I wanted to watch some myself, I figured out who was really getting punished."

Stewart and his partners, designer Wayne Poole and inventor Steve Smith, produced the TimeSlot.

Guides on home cooling and mobile home energy use

A comprehensive new guide to natural and mechanical home cooling is now available from Saturn Resource Management in Montana.

The 80-page, illustrated book, "Your Home Cooling Energy Guide," is intended to "help people reduce their dependence on mechanical air conditioning, lower their cooling bills, and at the same time be more comfortable in their homes," according to the publisher.

The guide covers cooling principles, stopping heat gain, using ventilation, evaporative coolers and air conditioners. It costs \$12.50, including shipping and handling.

Saturn also publishes an expanded, new edition of "Your Mobile Home Energy and Repair Guide," a 150-page book for residents of manufactured mobile homes. It sells for \$15.95, including shipping and handling.

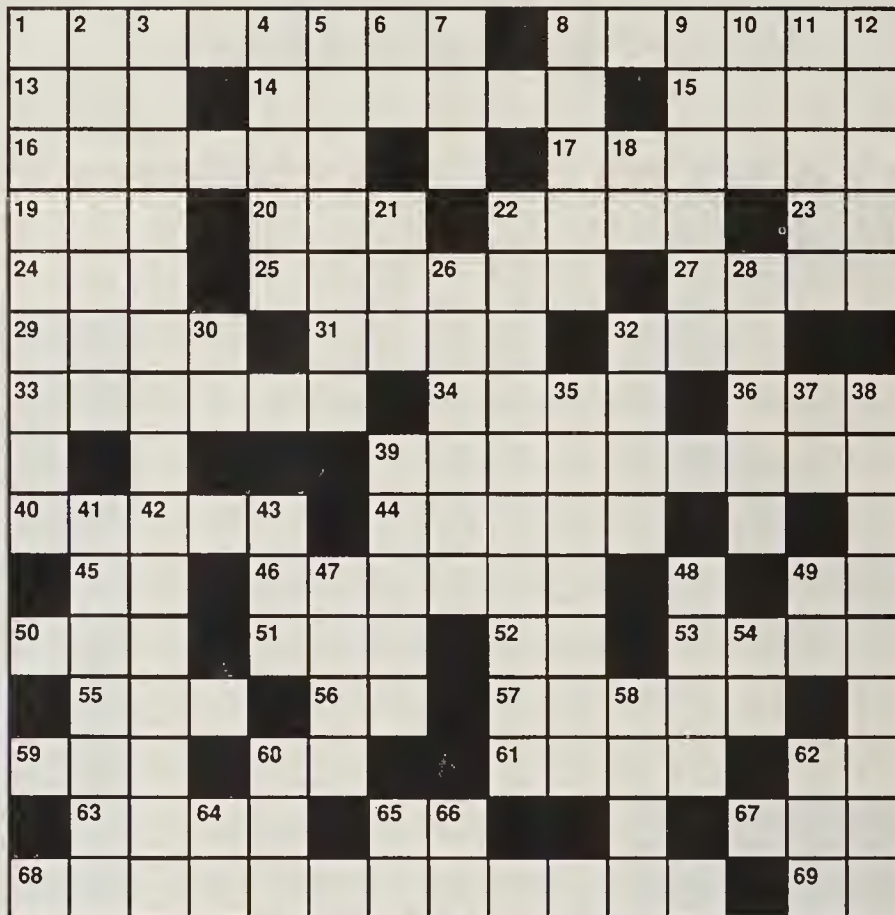
Orders may be placed with Saturn Resource Management, 34 Fuller Ave. S-8, Helena, Mont. 59601. Phone: (800) 735-9577.

CROSSWIRES

*Solution on
page 17.*

ACROSS

1. Light up my life
8. Relating to the stars
13. Famous batting coach
14. Spoke-like, or tire
15. Designed for aerial use
16. Incursion
17. Lethargy
19. Animal House
20. One used in craps
22. Explosion
23. Slang for matriarch
24. One of the Swiss mountains
25. French pastry
27. Dash, style
29. French for well
31. 1970s hairstyle
32. Approximate time of arrival, abbrev.
33. Glossy coating
34. Female singer
36. Petroleum
39. In Baseball, 6-3
40. Writer of Steppenwolf
44. Temper tantrums
45. Initials of 1970s Steeler Defensive End
46. For free
49. Abbreviation for Keystone State
50. English drink
51. Horse food
52. Form of savings, abbrev.
53. City in Algeria
55. Hoofed beast
56. That is, Latin abbrev.
57. Hebrew high priest



59. Darken
60. Talking horse
61. City in France
62. Junior Circuit, abbrev.
63. Untouchable
65. Twelve step organization, abbrev.
67. Ballad
68. Over our heads
69. Medicine man, abbrev.

DOWN

1. Queen
2. Oil from sheep
3. Inhabitant of the Old World
4. Barter
5. Extremist
6. Freudian subconscious component
7. Secret agency
8. Where Grooms are left
9. Bullseye
10. Can't be lived down, abbrev.
11. Olfactory essence
12. Navigational device
18. Engaged
21. Mythical creature
22. Pertaining to life forms
26. Mountain where Noah's Ark rests
28. Capital of Nigeria
30. Western state, abbrev.
32. Ages and ages
35. Day Mardi Gras is held
37. Gold, in table of elements
38. Beantown murderer
39. Shred
41. Stylish
43. Sense of self worth
47. Sneak attack
48. Blessing, or merry
49. Patriarch, slang
54. Registered medical aide, abbrev.
58. Bellow
60. Suffix making then most of it.
62. Accrue
64. Continent of Spanish Conquest, abbrev.
65. Preposition, like; Conjunction, when or while
66. Wire service, abbrev.

Read — lives depend on it.

Today, 27 million Americans are functionally illiterate. They can't read directions on an aspirin bottle. They can't read the ingredients listed on packages of the food they eat. They can't read warning labels on common household products they use. They can't even read this ad.

As publishers, the alarming rise in the rate of illiteracy across North America is of deep concern to us.

Close to 20 percent of Americans aged 21 to 25 read below the 8th-grade level. Only two-fifths of young Americans read well enough to grasp the meaning of a typical newspaper column.

You can help reduce those illiteracy numbers. Get involved in one of the many literacy programs now available in our community. Please do your part. Keep reading. And help someone who can't.

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Contact your local
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college for a literacy
program near you.

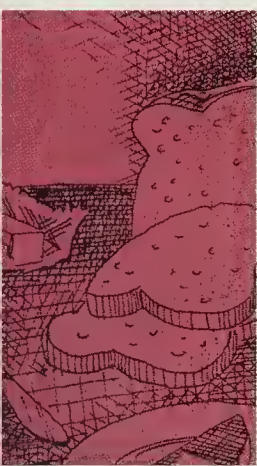
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Country Kitchen



A sunny cake for Easter.

Orange coconut cake

Submitted by Janice Austin, Lenoir

Cake:

- 2 boxes orange supreme cake mix
- 1 box orange gelatin
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups water
- 1 cup vegetable oil

Mix these five ingredients and bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes. Allow cake to cool and cut into four layers.

Filling:

- 16 ounces sour cream
- 12 ounces frozen coconut
- 2 cups sugar
- Juice and pulp from two oranges



Mix these four ingredients together. Set aside one cup of filling to be used in icing. Spread remainder of filling between cooled cake layers.

Icing:

- 1 cup of filling that was set aside
- 12 ounces Cool Whip

Mix icing ingredients together. Spread on top and sides of cake. Refrigerate 24 hours.

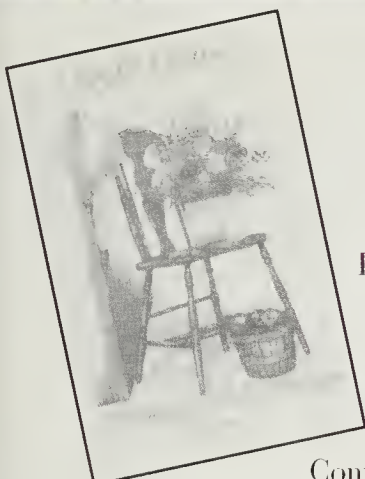
Want to share recipes?

If you would like to share a recipe with Country Kitchen, send it to *Carolina Country*, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

We pay \$5 for recipes we publish and present each monthly winner a set of 50 recipe cards featuring a reprint of the published recipe.

A Glimpse of "Light Living"

Buy 2 for the price of 1 (while they last)!



"Light Living," the cookbook published by the Women's

Committee of

North Carolina's rural electric cooperatives, is still available, but now at a discount.

The material in this cookbook was provided by Jean Perry Spodnik and David P. Cogan, M.D., co-authors of

the "35-plus Good Health Guide for Women."

The 192-page softcover cookbook includes more than 300 recipes contributed by members of local co-op women's committees across the state. Also included in this publication are tips for dieting, exercises and information on nutrition.

Proceeds from the sale of the spiral-bound cookbook will support three college scholarships that are awarded annually.

To order a copy, complete the coupon below and enclose check or money order for \$12.95 **per two copies**, including postage and handling. Mail orders to: Women's Committee Cookbook, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

Solution to Crosswires on page 16

E	L	E	C	T	R	I	C	A	S	T	R	A	L
L	A	U	R	A	D	I	A	L	A	E	R	O	
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A	L	P	E	C	L	A	I	R	E	L	A	N	
B	I	E	N	A	F	R	O	E	T	A			
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ABC didn't tell the real REA story

By Bob Bergland

A recent segment of ABC's "Prime Time Live" served up the most dishonest report on a federal program ever seen. Its story on the Rural Electrification Administration presented the distorted, and discredited, point of view of Reagan-Bush politicians as a fact, and used only Reagan political appointees to "inform" the public. No attempt was made to explain how REA works in the 1990s or to talk with the people who make things work in the countryside.

The greatest shame is that the American public was left with absolutely no insight into what is perhaps the most successful federal government/private sector program in our country's history. The report didn't even give glimpses of the scope of this program.

Today, some 1,000 locally owned rural electric systems own and maintain more than half the nation's power lines covering some of the country's roughest terrain to serve 10 percent of the population. Many serve areas of two or fewer families per mile of line.

The responsibility is enormous, the work hard and never ending. That's the simple essence of the real story.

ABC instead provided a single-minded focus on the shopworn shibboleths of politicians of another era. That's a disservice to the viewers and an even greater disservice to the millions of Americans who rely on the local rural electric cooperatives for affordable electric light and power. Not to mention the thousands of co-op directors, elected by the member consumers who own the utilities, and the dedicated employees who keep the power flowing around the clock.

If the network would take a fresh look at what works in this country, it would see that REA stands out as one of the best investments in people and basic infrastructure. The agency would also emerge as one of the foundations of quality of life in rural America. ABC should examine the real story. ▲

Bob Bergland is the executive vice president of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



EMC Annual Meetings Calendar

April 16, 1993

Piedmont EMC, Hillsborough

Registration: 7:30 p.m.

Business Meeting: 8 p.m.

(Orange High School, Hillsborough)

April 17, 1993

French Broad EMC, Marshall

Registration: 3 p.m.

Business Meeting: 6 p.m.

(Madison High School, By-Pass 2570, Marshall)

May 7, 1993

Harkers Island EMC,

Harkers Island

Registration: 6:15 p.m.

Business Meeting: 7 p.m.

(Harkers Island Elementary School)

May 15, 1993

Halifax EMC, Enfield

Registration: 9 a.m.

Business Meeting: 11 a.m.

(Enfield Middle School, Enfield)

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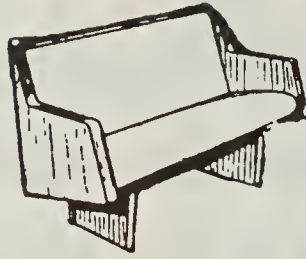
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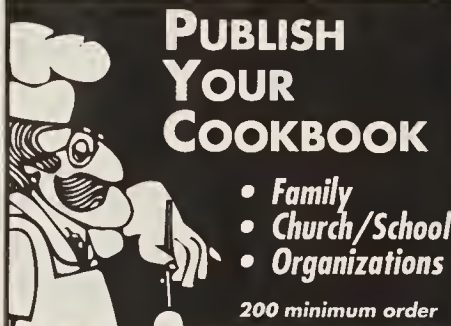
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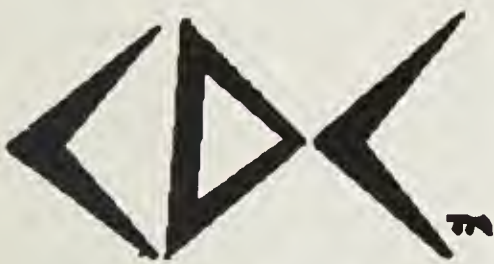
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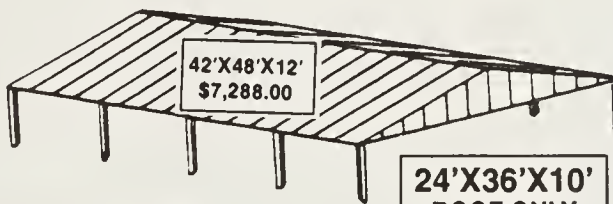
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Dogs in
Pittsboro ...
Open House at
Cherry Point.**

Wooden boat show at Beaufort museum

Beaufort's 19th annual Wooden Boat Show, conducted by the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort, is scheduled for May 1-2.

Various workshops and demonstrations, such as rowing and sailing races, will be presented.

For more information or to register a boat, contact the North Carolina Maritime Museum at 315 Front St., Beaufort, N.C. 28516. Phone: (919) 728-7317.

Union County Herb Festival in Matthews

Union County's Herb Festival is scheduled for April 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Matthews.

The festival will feature live herbal plants, crafts, dried arrangements and programs on such topics as growing perennials, making your own potpourri, landscaping with herbs and making your own soap.

The festival will be held at 15908 Deepwood Place, Matthews, N.C. 28105. Admission is free.

For more information, contact Brenda Dills, P.O. Box 23240, Mint Hill, N.C. 28212. Phone: (704) 882-2669.

Marine Corps station sets open house

The U.S. Navy's Blue Angels flight demonstration team will be featured during the 1992 open house and gala airshow at the Marine Corps Air Station in Cherry Point, April 17-18.

Other events scheduled include ground displays of vintage and modern aircraft and military equipment, and mock air battle involving

aircraft used during the Korean War.

Gates will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For recorded information updates, call (919) 466-2580 or 466-2587.

New Bern antique show scheduled for May 1-2

The New Bern Preservation Foundation's annual antique show has been set for May 1-2 at the Sheraton Hotel in New Bern.

With 30 dealers participating by invitation, the show will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

A \$25 patron's ticket to a Friday reception will cover admission costs for both days, a lecture on Oriental rugs, and other special events. Otherwise, show admission will be \$4 with separate tickets for

special events. Advance tickets may be ordered by check for \$3.50.

For more information, contact the New Bern Preservation Foundation, P.O. Box 207, New Bern, N.C. 28563. Phone: (919) 633-6448.

1993 Fat Tire Ride for Fun in the Forest

The 1993 Fat Tire Ride for Fun in the Forest will be May 1, at the North Mills River Recreation area in the Pisgah National Forest near Hendersonville.

Registration will be limited to 150 bikers, with the first 100 receiving commemorative water bottles. The \$10 registration fee also includes a T-shirt, trail map, fruits, beverages and lunch.

For an application, contact the North Carolina Forestry Association, 1600 Glenwood

Disney art exhibit in Davidson County

The Davidson County Art Guild will host the "Art of Disney" animation exhibit April 4-28.

More than 100 pieces of original Disney art work will be on exhibit, including serigraph and production cels, comic and cartoon art and limited-edition hand-inked cels.

A behind-the-scenes video on the making of "Aladdin" will be shown hourly, and the movie "Jungle Book" will be shown April 10 at the Lexington Civic Center Theater. Admission is free with a ticket, which can be obtained in advance from the Davidson County Art Guild.

Ollie Johnson, who worked as an animator with Walt Disney, will speak April 17 on his experiences in helping create such movies as "Jungle Book," "Bambi," and "Snow White."

Each donation of \$1 to the Davidson County Art Guild will be good for one raffle ticket for a trip for four to Disney World. The drawing for the four-day, three-night trip is set for April 25.

The exhibit will be open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Katherine Skipper, Exhibition Chairman, 800 Nottingham Dr., Lexington, N.C. 27292. Phone: (704) 249-7046.



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Fairview, N.C. 28730.
Phone: (704) 628-4550.

Pittsboro is site of sheep dog trials

Clarence Durham's farm
near Pittsboro will host
the annual Heart of Carolina
Sheep Dog Trials May 1-3.

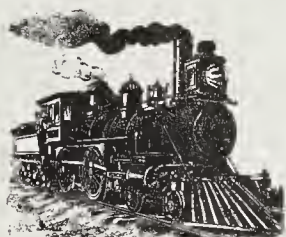
More than 1,500 spectators
are expected to watch border
collies and more than 20
handlers from nine states
compete for points as a
preliminary to the national
sheep dog championships in
Colorado in September.

North Carolina is becoming
an important location for
border collie competition,
according to representatives
of the North Carolina Border
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For more information, call
the association. Phone: (919)
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Mountains steam trains roll April 24-25

North Carolina's Trans-
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NCSU Spring Conservation Retreat

The NCSU Spring Con-
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For more information,
contact Ann Coughlin,
NCSU, College of Forest
Resources, Box 8001,
Raleigh, N.C.
27695. Phone:
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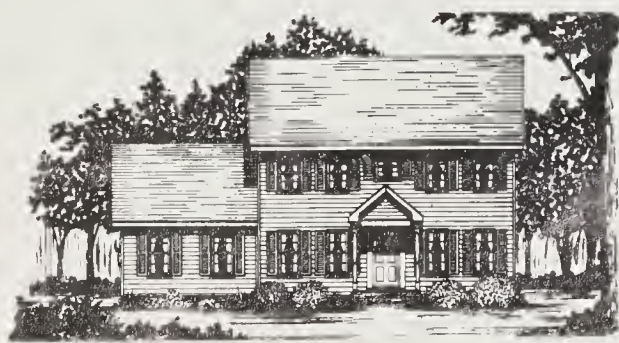
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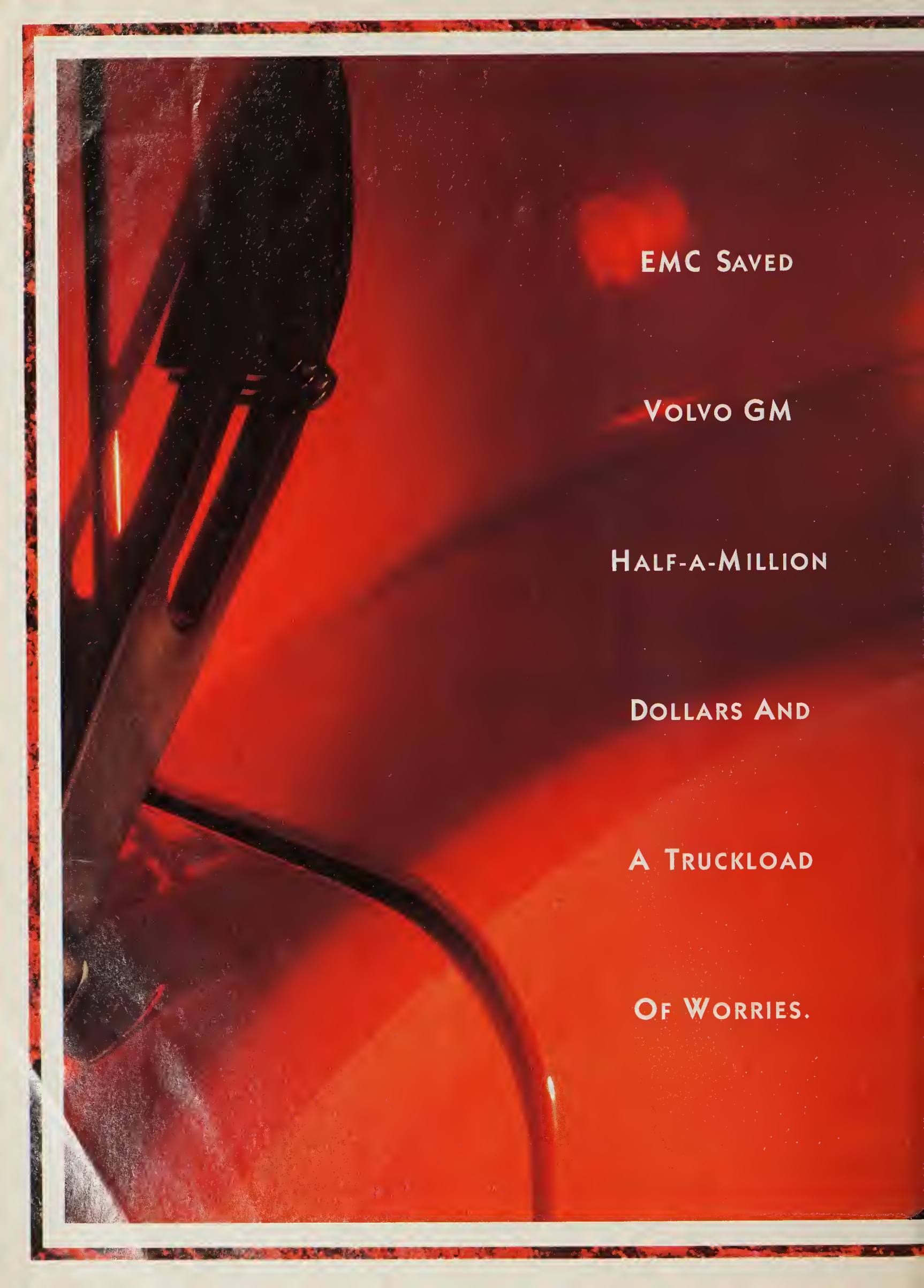
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Hank's Gardening Guide

by Hank Smith



Careful work in spring leads to summer success.

Spring is for gardeners. If you haven't felt that urge for activity in your garden, visit your local nursery and nearby public gardens. Much of the success of your summer garden and lawn depends upon what is done this month.

It's time for mulching, unmulching and remulching; time to fertilize; time to plant. And it's time to enjoy the results of your autumn labors.

Weed control

If you have a few weeds scattered over your lawn, there is no need to use weed killer on the entire yard. Spot treat established weeds in the lawn with a nonselective herbicide.

For ease in application, pour the amount of weed killer needed into an empty plastic detergent bottle and

squirt directly onto the offending weed—and nothing else. Dispose of the detergent bottle after use.

Gardenia leaf drop

At this time of year, some leaves of gardenias turn yellow and drop from plants. This is quite normal. Some older leaves of this evergreen ornamental shed every spring. Shedding leaves do not retard the development of buds that become fragrant blossoms.

Starter solution

By giving transplanted seedlings of flowers and vegetables a starter solution, you'll lessen the shock of transplanting.

You can purchase a ready-mixed starter fertilizer or make your own by dissolving three teaspoons of a complete

fertilizer in a gallon of warm water.

To give the fertilizer time to dissolve, prepare the mixture several hours before it's to be used. Pour a cupful around each newly set plant.



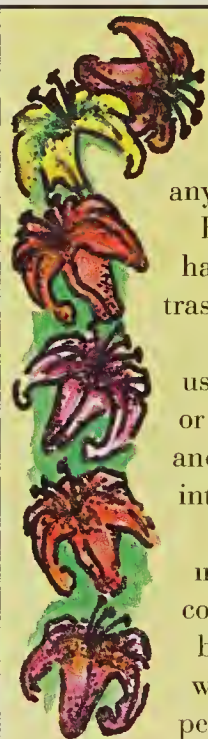
Preparing for vegetables

How big should your garden be? A properly managed 40-by-40-foot plot can supply ample fresh vegetables for a family of six throughout the growing season. And there will be extra vegetables for freezing, canning and sharing with friends.

Spread a three- or four-inch layer of organic matter over the garden. Use old manure, peat, compost or well-rotted sawdust. Then spread a complete fertilizer, such as 8-8-8 or 10-10-10, over the area. Apply at the rate of 50 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

Using a rotary tiller, thoroughly mix the mulch, lime and fertilizer into the top six inches of soil. Rake the surface smooth. Measure and stake rows two feet apart.

If you don't have space (or energy) to grow a large vegetable garden, try growing a few vegetables among the annuals in a flower bed. Staked tomatoes make a nice background for lower growing annuals. Carrots and radishes make nice edging plants at the base of flower beds. Or grow a few vegetables in containers on the patio.



Daylilies

Undemanding in culture, daylilies contribute more color for less work than any other flower in the summer garden.

Evergreen varieties with their fountain-like habit of growth add interesting form and contrast to the winter scene.

These self-sufficient perennials are ideal for use in groups at the base of shrubbery borders or in the flower garden with other perennials and annuals. They're unsurpassed when grouped into fat colonies at the base of a fence or wall.

Each year sees the development of many new hybrids with a vast range in form and color. There are varieties with cup-shaped blooms, others with big flaring trumpets, some with ruffled petals, and others with recurved petals. Daylilies come in all shades and tints of yellow, orange, pink, apricot, burgundy reds, and shades of maroon, dark purples and lavender tints. Some have strong hints of green coloring.

Daylilies are winter hardy and immune to summer heat. They thrive in full sun or partial shade. A few varieties flower when grown in deep shade.

These near-ideal perennials are not exacting as to soil but grow best on a good, sandy loam. Good drainage is important because they will not tolerate wet feet for a long period of time.

Spring into summer

1. Just before new growth appears, trim and/or prune evergreens.
2. Control moles in the lawn or beds by using a mole trap or a soil insecticide to kill the insects the moles are trying to eat.
3. Finish pruning hybrid tea, floribunda and grandiflora roses.
4. Begin summer spray program for insects and leaf diseases of roses.
5. Remove any bagworms that still are attached to arbor vitae, leland cypress and other evergreens.
6. Prepare beds for planting caladiums, dahlias, elephant ears, gladiolus, cannas and tuberose.
7. Mow cool season grasses at a height of three inches to allow for deep root formation before summer.
8. Use plant labels as you plant—it's easy to forget what was planted where.
9. Mulch shrubbery borders with grass clippings, pine straw, newspapers and magazines to help control weeds.
10. If leaf miners have been a problem on boxwood, treat plants with a systemic insecticide. Leaf miners make a little tunnel beneath the leaf surface.
11. Finish planting strawberries.
12. Keep bearing plants of strawberries well watered. Fertilize after they finish bearing.
13. To hasten blooming season, purchase annual bedding plants from a garden center.
14. If nandina berries did not hold onto the plant last winter, fertilize with one cup of super phosphate per plant over two years old.
15. After your Easter lily blooms fade, remove the plant from the pot and plant outside in the flower border. It probably will bloom again next year but sometimes it takes two years to rebloom.

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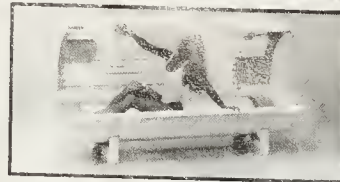
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The list of the nation's electric co-ops includes intriguing and puzzling names.

Colorful co-op names: from Agrilite to Vigilante

.....

Most electric co-ops around the country have followed a path similar to that taken by North Carolina co-ops in selecting corporate names: They drew inspiration from the land they serve, taking names that would show up readily on territorial maps.

Still, the list of the nation's 1,000 co-ops includes many colorful names that are simply symbolic of the territory or the co-op's consumer-members. Other corporate titles immediately inspire a question: "Why did they pick *that* name?"

Many of the symbolic names have an agricultural flavor. A Minnesota co-op's intriguing name conveys the image of power lines serving farmers and illuminating the countryside: Agrilite. Six others around the country use "Farmers" in the name, and another uses "Planters."

More than a dozen are named for important local crops. Kansas and Wyoming both claim Wheatlands, and Oklahoma has both Cotton and Alfalfa. Minnesota has Wild Rice.

Ten are named for a tree or grass indigenous to the area served.

A Georgia co-op salutes the Slash Pine, which has long been a source of local pride. Co-op manager Edward Teston says a sign once stood near the co-op headquarters proclaiming this message: "Welcome to Homerville, home of 7 billion slash pines, 7,000 happy people and two old grouches."

It's no surprise that Kentucky has a co-op named Blue Grass but would you expect to find one called Wiregrass? The grass is no longer a common sight in the area, yet its fame continues to be spread by the co-op,



which is based in Hartford, Alabama.

Another Kentucky co-op also spotlights a bit of fauna: the pennyroyal, a variety of mint that's used as a ground cover, a home remedy, a flavoring for meat dishes and a deterrent to ants in the pantry. The co-op and the region it serves are both known as Pennyrile.

Here are some of the other co-op names that were inspired by the products of nature's bounty: Sunflower (Kansas); Cherryland and Cloverland (Michigan); Rosebud (South Dakota); Soyland (Illinois); Cornhusker (Nebraska); Magnolia (Mississippi).

Real rivers inspired the names of five North Carolina co-ops—Pee Dee, Wadesboro; Roanoke, Rich Square; French Broad, Marshall; and Lumbee River, Red Springs. However, you won't find a Spoon River in Illinois, where Spoon River Electric Co-op serves about 4,000 members around Canton. The co-op took its name from the 1915 classic, "Spoon River Anthology," by the poet Edgar Lee Masters.

Some of the names give broad hints as to where the co-ops are based while others offer no clues at all.

Sho-Me Power Corporation just



has to be in the Show-Me state of Missouri. Volunteer Electric Co-op certainly ought to be in Tennessee, the Volunteer state. And you'd certainly look below the Mason-Dixon line for the three named Dixie. They're in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. Yet, Utah has a co-op named Dixie-Escalante. A co-op named Heartland would be at home anywhere in the mid-West but it happens to be based in Madison, South Dakota.

Many of the names conjure up images of the Old West: Beartooth, Big Flat, Flathead, Glacier, Goldenwest and Vigilante are all in Montana. Wyoming and Montana both have Big Horns. Kit Carson is in New Mexico. Elkhorn is in Nebraska. Butte is in South Dakota while Square Butte is in North Dakota. Kansas has Pioneer. Minnesota has Arrowhead. Crow Wing and Red River. Oklahoma has Choctaw, Cimarron and Indian.

Yet Cherokee is in Alabama. Buffalo is in Wisconsin and Frontier is in Ohio.

Although Frontier sounds like something out of a John Wayne horse

opera, the name actually refers to modern-day frontiers. Members of the Tuscarawas-Coshocton Electric Co-op felt the name was so long they couldn't say it without pausing for breath. The new name was adopted in 1965, when manned flights into the "new frontier" of space dominated the news. The name was also intended to emphasize that electricity offered consumers a new frontier because it "improves the lives and economic opportunities of people in the area."

You might expect Oceana Electric Co-op to be somewhere in sight of the Atlanta or Pacific. Not so. It's in Michigan. Lighthouse Rural Electric Co-op sounds like it might belong on the coast of Maine but in fact the co-op is hundreds of miles from an ocean. It's in the Texas panhandle. Known as Floyd County Rural Electric Co-op until 1953, the system changed its name because the territory had grown to include many members who didn't live in Floyd County. The new name was chosen in a contest, and the winner felt rural electrification "lights up my house."

Another naming contest allowed a co-op to switch from the cumbersome handle of Northern Idaho Rural Electrical Rehabilitation Association in 1949. The winning entry was Northern Lights, recognizing nature's Anrora Borealis lights and the co-op's mission of providing light and energy in territory near the Canadian border.

Six co-ops emphasize the democratic nature of rural electrification: Citizens (Missouri), People's (Oklahoma and Minnesota), Consumers and Emerald People's (Oregon) and Community (Virginia). Five others take a generic approach: Rural Electric Company (Idaho and Wyoming),

Co-op Light and Power (Minnesota), Rural Electric Co-op (Oklahoma) and Rural Electric Convenience Co-op (Illinois).

Efforts to organize many co-ops were delayed by World War II. After the war, when the co-op in Dodge City, Kansas, was finally established, its board chose the name Victory.

Lots of other names on the list struck me for one reason or another but there was no time to explore their stories. Here are some I found appealing: Smoky Hill, Snapping Shoals, Radiant, Big Sandy, Swans Island, North Star, Red Lake, Cavalier, Slope, Firelands, Whetstone, Lone Wolf, Moon Lake and Wise. These just left me puzzled: Arab, Black Warrior, Egyptian, Hawkeye, Thumb and Forked Deer. ▲

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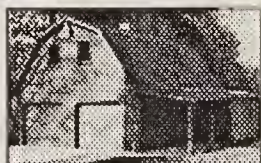
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